

# Libraries by Sector and Two-Year Colleges

## Abstract

Chapters 1 and 2 of Library Technology Reports (vol. 50, no. 4) looked at heterogeneous sets of libraries. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 look at more homogeneous groups of libraries. Chapter 3 breaks down libraries by sector—the typical term length (two years or four or more years) and governance model. It also includes the largest Carnegie classification, Associate’s Colleges, most but not all of which are in sectors 4–6.

## Sector 1: Public Four-Year and Above

Sector 1, public institutions of four or more years, represents more than half of all academic library spending in 2012. Of 622 libraries responding to the 2012 survey, 579 (93%) responded throughout the decade—and those 579 include 98% of all reported 2012 spending. In all, these 579 libraries served 6,534,358 FTE students in 2012. Libraries include those at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Pennsylvania State University Main Campus; Wright State University, Lake Campus; and Sitting Bull College. (In case you’re wondering, I’m using as examples the two libraries with the largest 2012 budgets and the two with the smallest that haven’t already been mentioned, or ones close to them.)<sup>1</sup>

Table 3.1 shows key figures. Most libraries didn’t quite keep up with inflation overall—but most substantially increased serials spending and substantially decreased other acquisitions. Most changes are roughly within the norm (since, with more than half of all spending, this sector tends to define the norm). Specifically, 55% of libraries cut books and other acquisitions by at least 25%, including 31% where it dropped

## About This Study

Libraries included are the 2,594 institutions that responded to the NCES Academic Libraries Survey in 2002 and 2012 and also appeared (sometimes with imputed figures) in the 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010 surveys. All dollar amounts prior to 2012 are adjusted for inflation.

## Terms used

- Serials: spending on current serials, electronic or print
- Books or Books (etc.): spending on all acquisitions except current serials
- Remainder: total library budget minus acquisitions
- Serials %, Books %: percentage of total budget
- Total Change, Serials Change, Books Change, Remainder Change: percentage change from 2002 to 2012
- Q1: first quartile
- Q3: third quartile
- CC: Carnegie classifications

by half or more—while 20% increased books spending by at least 25%. Just over one-fifth of the libraries (21%) increased serials spending by at least half; 17% managed to cut it by 25% or more, while another 17% lost at least 25% of remainder spending. It would take \$114,616,845 in added funding for all libraries to spend at least as much on books and other non-serials acquisitions as in 2002 (accounting for inflation).

I’m omitting the graph for median spending

changes because it makes sense to show two graphs, splitting libraries into those where overall budgets at least kept up with inflation and those that have been losing ground to inflation. Here and throughout, I'm defining "keeping up with inflation" as showing a total budget change of \$0 or more, rather than any negative change since 2002.

### Libraries Keeping Up with Inflation

Of these libraries, 239 (41%) kept up with inflation. Those libraries served 2,870,187 FTE students in 2012. Examples include University of California, Los Angeles; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Northwest Indian College; and Kent State University at Salem (ALS 2012).

Table 3.2 shows generally positive numbers, with most libraries actually increasing books spending. While 33% of these libraries cut books spending by 25% or more, 37% increased it by 25% or more, while 38% increased serials spending by at least 50%. Even though overall books spending was up slightly, it would take another \$29,763,679 for all libraries to spend at least as much on books (etc.) in 2012 as in 2002, accounting for inflation.

As seen in figure 3.1, while most of these libraries managed to increase books spending from 2004 to 2006, the relentless push of serials spending caused most of that gain to be erased by 2012—and the rest of the budget, while showing reasonable gains until 2010, is starting to suffer slightly.

### Libraries Losing Ground to Inflation

What of the other 59% of libraries in Sector 1—libraries that lost ground to inflation between 2002 and 2012? These 340 libraries supported 3,664,171 FTE students in 2012. Examples include University of California, Berkeley; University of Texas at Austin; University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu; and University of Maine at Machias (ALS 2012).

As is clear from table 3.3, most of these libraries saw sharp cuts in books spending and even larger cuts (in dollars, not percentages) in everything except acquisitions. The most impressive numbers: 70% of these libraries cut books (etc.) spending by at least 25%, including 41% where such spending dropped by at least half, and 28% cut remainder spending by at least 25%. For that matter, 24% cut serials spending by 25% or more.

Figure 3.2 may be self-explanatory—at median, libraries are barely retaining serials spending at the expense of everything else, with huge cuts in books spending.

## Sector 2: Private Nonprofit Four-Year and Above

Sector 2, private nonprofit institutions of four or more years, is the largest group of colleges and universities. Of 1,253 responding to the 2012 survey, 1,032 (82%) appear here, representing 93% of spending for the group. In all, these 1,032 libraries served 2,810,243 FTE students in 2012. Examples include Columbia University in New York City, New York University, Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology, and World Medicine Institute (ALS 2012).

Table 3.4 shows an even split between libraries keeping up with inflation and those losing ground, and also an even split on remainder spending—but substantial cuts in books budgets in most libraries, with more than half of libraries losing more than one-third of their books budgets. Some key numbers that don't appear in table 3.4: 60% of these libraries cut at least 25% from books (etc.) spending, including 35% that cut it in half (or worse), while 34% increased serials spending by at least half (ALS 2002–2012). To have all libraries spending at least as much for books (etc.) as in 2002, accounting for inflation, would require an additional \$75,064,113.

Figure 3.3 is straightforward: serials gain, books lose, the rest stays about even.

### Libraries Keeping Up with Inflation

Slightly more than half of these libraries (520 or 50.32%) at least kept up with inflation. Those 520 libraries served 1,868,540 FTE students in 2012. Examples include Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, Five Branches University, and Messinger College (ALS 2012).

As seen in table 3.5, while this group of libraries is reasonably healthy overall—with 44% managing to increase remainder spending by at least 25%, including 21% where it grew by half or more—it's still the case that 43% of these libraries cut books (etc.) spending by at least 25%, including 20% that cut it by half or more. (On the other hand, another 27% increased books [etc.] spending by at least 25%.) Exactly half the libraries spent at least 50% more on serials in 2012 than in 2002 (after inflation), including 28% where such spending more than doubled. All things considered, and given overall expenditures, the amount required to have all libraries at least spending as much on books (etc.) in 2012 as in 2002 is modest: \$28,675,507.

Figure 3.4 shows median spending changes—still a drop in books, but a reasonably gentle drop, along with a big increase in serials spending.

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$1,238,980	\$2,694,530	\$6,063,779		\$3,401,715,641
<b>Serials</b>	\$231,769	\$716,794	\$2,032,902		\$1,045,525,453
<b>Books</b>	\$77,651	\$163,807	\$520,764		\$305,073,729
<b>Serials %</b>	17%	27%	34%	31%	
<b>Books %</b>	5%	7%	11%	9%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-17%	-5%	13%	-2%	-\$62,093,699
<b>Serials Change</b>	-11%	12%	42%	20%	\$171,301,175
<b>Books Change</b>	-56%	-29%	16%	-19%	-\$70,531,574
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-19%	-8%	8%	-7%	-\$162,863,299

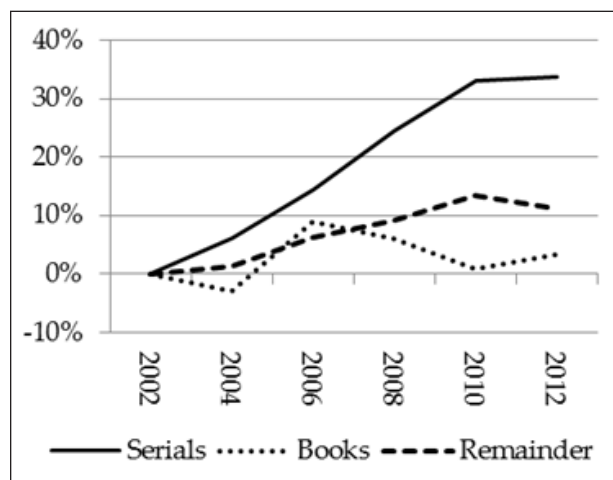
**Table 3.1**

Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 1, libraries at public four-year and above institutions (ALS 2002–2012)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$1,466,835	\$3,039,771	\$7,796,797		\$1,540,953,024
<b>Serials</b>	\$248,337	\$878,137	\$2,477,511		\$484,650,040
<b>Books</b>	\$98,036	\$218,423	\$705,668		\$152,419,007
<b>Serials %</b>	17%	27%	36%	31%	
<b>Books %</b>	5%	8%	13%	10%	
<b>Total Change</b>	8%	16%	26%	18%	\$238,553,277
<b>Serials Change</b>	9%	34%	73%	40%	\$138,393,892
<b>Books Change</b>	-36%	3%	53%	2%	\$2,932,877
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-2%	11%	26%	12%	\$97,226,508

**Table 3.2**

Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 1 libraries that are keeping up with inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

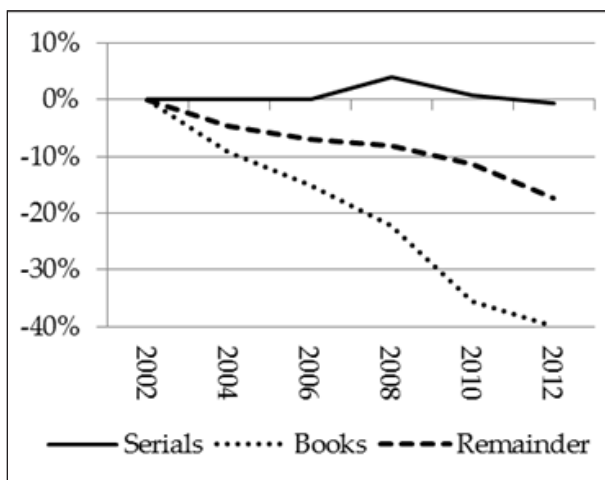


**Figure 3.1**

Percentage change in median spending for Sector 1 libraries that are keeping up with inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

### Libraries Losing Ground to Inflation

What of the others? The remaining 512 libraries lost ground to inflation. Those generally smaller libraries served 941,703 FTE students in 2012. Examples include Washington University in St. Louis, Vanderbilt University, Mid-Atlantic Christian University, and American Indian College of the Assemblies of God (ALS 2012).



**Figure 3.2**

Percentage change in median spending for Sector 1 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

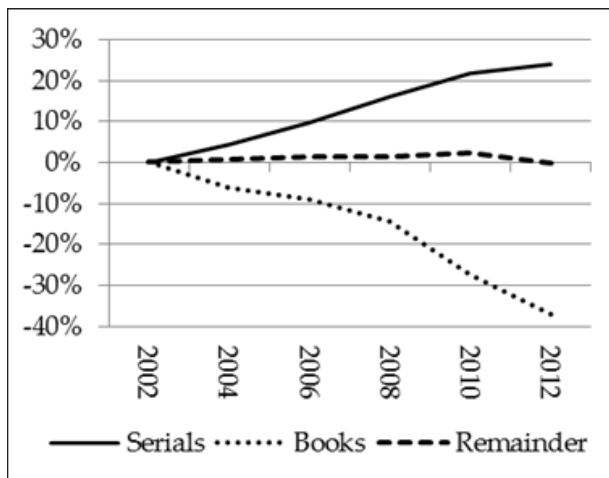
Table 3.6 tells a generally downbeat story, although serials spending still managed to grow somewhat. In fact, more than three-quarters of these libraries (77%) cut books (etc.) spending by at least 25%—and a majority (51%) cut such spending by half or more. More than a quarter (29%) even cut serials spending by 25% or more, with 14% making 50% or deeper cuts—while 18% increased serials spending by

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$1,155,048	\$2,460,024	\$5,380,081		\$1,860,762,617
<b>Serials</b>	\$222,371	\$608,053	\$1,733,695		\$560,875,413
<b>Books</b>	\$66,372	\$142,864	\$325,465		\$152,654,722
<b>Serials %</b>	17%	26%	34%	30%	
<b>Books %</b>	4%	7%	9%	8%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-22%	-15%	-7%	-14%	-\$300,646,977
<b>Serials Change</b>	-23%	-1%	22%	6%	\$32,907,283
<b>Books Change</b>	-65%	-40%	-16%	-32%	-\$73,464,451
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-26%	-17%	-8%	-18%	-\$260,089,807

**Table 3.3**  
Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 1 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$340,541	\$709,164	\$1,709,526		\$2,329,192,101
<b>Serials</b>	\$50,263	\$142,756	\$430,527		\$668,756,586
<b>Books</b>	\$23,069	\$57,733	\$146,719		\$285,108,686
<b>Serials %</b>	14%	22%	31%	29%	
<b>Books %</b>	5%	9%	12%	12%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-18%	0%	21%	8%	\$181,660,941
<b>Serials Change</b>	-13%	24%	72%	30%	\$155,692,750
<b>Books Change</b>	-61%	-37%	0%	-3%	-\$9,074,581
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-17%	0%	21%	3%	\$35,042,779

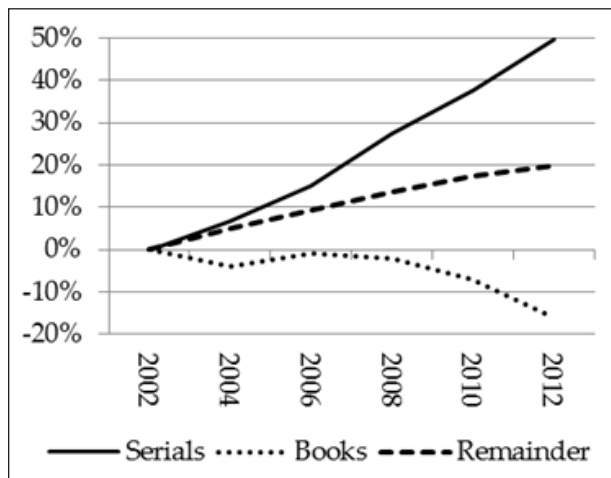
**Table 3.4**  
Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 2, libraries at private nonprofit four-year and above institutions (ALS 2002–2012)



**Figure 3.3**  
Percentage change in median spending for Sector 2 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

at least 50%. Nearly one-third of the libraries (30%) cut remainder spending by at least 25%. To restore books (etc.) spending at all libraries to at least 2002 levels (plus inflation), an additional \$46,388,606 would be required.

As shown in figure 3.5, at the median, these libraries lost ground on serials—but only since 2010—and suffered huge drops in books spending and big enough



**Figure 3.4**  
Percentage change in median spending for Sector 2 libraries that are keeping up with inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

drops in the rest of the budget to be difficult to sustain.

### Sector 3: Private For-Profit Four-Year and Above

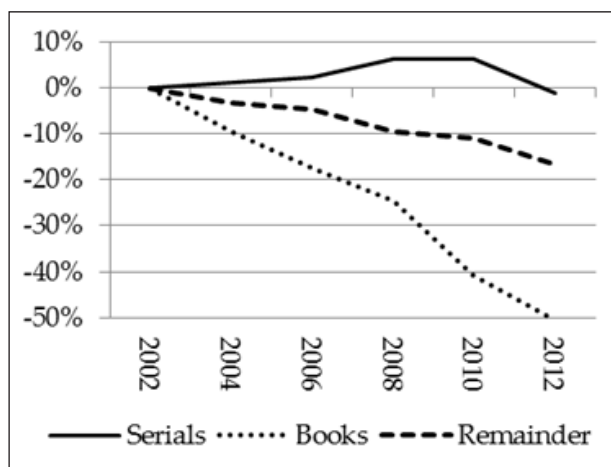
The for-profit colleges and universities in Sector 3 are even more volatile—of 307 responding in 2012, only

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$452,600	\$928,790	\$2,289,219		\$1,685,441,183
<b>Serials</b>	\$76,541	\$207,939	\$645,375		\$480,110,947
<b>Books</b>	\$33,820	\$79,977	\$213,003		\$223,627,175
<b>Serials %</b>	16%	24%	33%	28%	
<b>Books %</b>	6%	9%	13%	13%	
<b>Total Change</b>	8%	20%	43%	22%	\$307,198,594
<b>Serials Change</b>	15%	50%	109%	43%	\$145,166,405
<b>Books Change</b>	-45%	-16%	27%	17%	\$32,603,234
<b>Remainder Change</b>	5%	20%	44%	15%	\$129,428,956

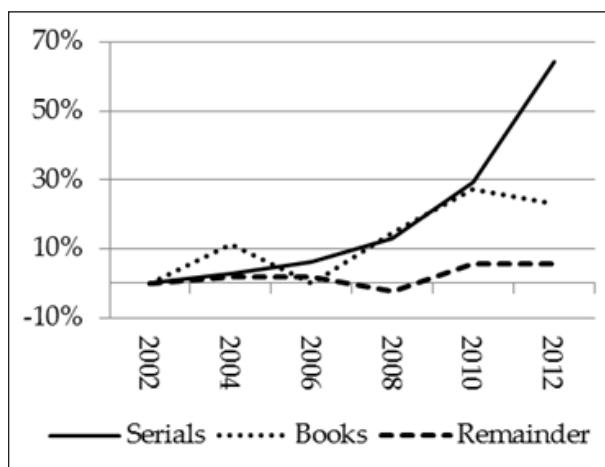
**Table 3.5**  
Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 2 libraries that are keeping up with inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$261,001	\$535,106	\$1,167,655		\$643,750,918
<b>Serials</b>	\$37,946	\$106,459	\$300,285		\$188,645,639
<b>Books</b>	\$16,563	\$44,440	\$100,537		\$61,481,511
<b>Serials %</b>	12%	20%	29%	29%	
<b>Books %</b>	5%	8%	12%	10%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-29%	-18%	-9%	-16%	-\$125,537,653
<b>Serials Change</b>	-29%	-1%	35%	6%	\$10,526,345
<b>Books Change</b>	-71%	-50%	-29%	-40%	-\$41,677,814
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-29%	-17%	-6%	-19%	-\$94,386,177

**Table 3.6**  
Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 2 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)



**Figure 3.5**  
Percentage change in median spending for Sector 2 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)



**Figure 3.6**  
Percentage change in median spending for Sector 3 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

131 (43%) appear here, representing 57% of the spending. Those 131 are mostly small institutions, serving a total of 687,896 FTE students in 2012. Perhaps worth noting: nine libraries account for most of the numbers in table 3.7 other than books spending—528,429 of the FTE students, \$24.8 million in total spending, \$12.6 million in serials spending, and \$1.9 million in books spending. Libraries include University of

Phoenix, Phoenix-Hohokam Campus; DeVry University, Illinois; Centura College Virginia Beach; and ITT Technical Institute, Boise (ALS 2012).

As table 3.7 shows, figures are all over the place. A majority of the libraries (56%) increased serials spending by at least 50% over inflation, including 40% that at least doubled it, but 21% cut serials spending by 25% or more. Exactly half increased books (etc.)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$83,982	\$118,538	\$250,171		\$44,395,911
<b>Serials</b>	\$3,600	\$7,000	\$27,610		\$14,215,801
<b>Books</b>	\$4,028	\$11,906	\$40,500		\$5,319,899
<b>Serials %</b>	4%	6%	17%	32%	
<b>Books %</b>	5%	9%	20%	12%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-24%	12%	93%	84%	\$20,223,879
<b>Serials Change</b>	-13%	64%	345%	317%	\$10,810,117
<b>Books Change</b>	-54%	23%	207%	46%	\$1,679,202
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-26%	6%	73%	45%	\$7,734,559

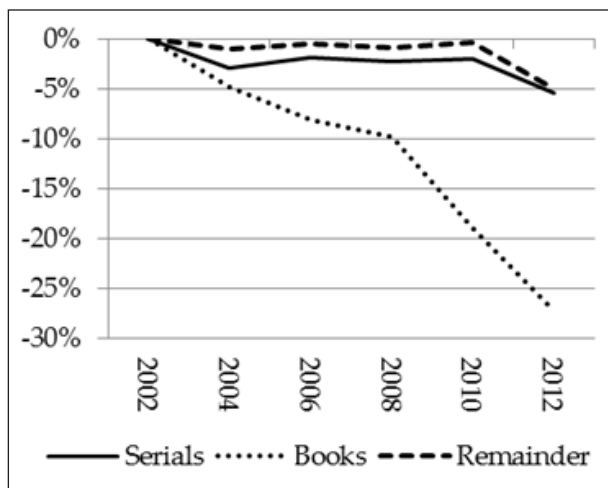
**Table 3.7**

Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 3, private for-profit four-year and above institutions (ALS 2002–2012)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$257,903	\$451,820	\$799,133		\$514,523,840
<b>Serials</b>	\$16,507	\$39,086	\$75,082		\$45,247,945
<b>Books</b>	\$19,670	\$38,482	\$71,372		\$48,584,089
<b>Serials %</b>	5%	8%	13%	9%	
<b>Books %</b>	6%	9%	12%	9%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-25%	-8%	10%	-8%	-\$43,493,104
<b>Serials Change</b>	-43%	-11%	46%	2%	\$903,191
<b>Books Change</b>	-57%	-31%	4%	-23%	-\$14,661,401
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-23%	-6%	15%	-7%	-\$29,734,890

**Table 3.8**

Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 4, libraries at public two-year institutions (ALS 2002–2012)

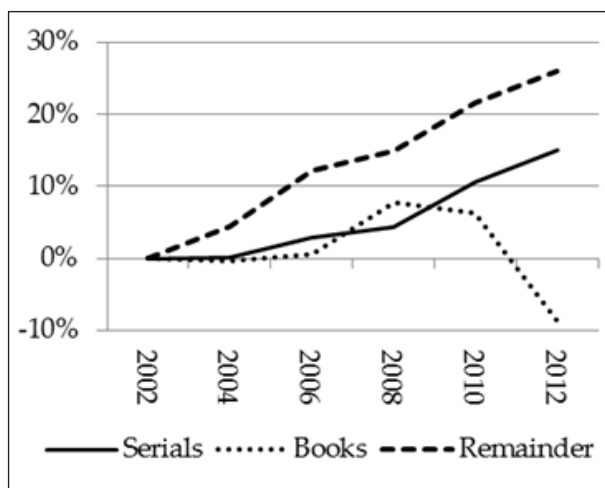


**Figure 3.7**

Percentage change in median spending for libraries in CC 40: Associate's Colleges (ALS 2002–2012)

spending by 25% or more—an unusually good number—and nearly all of those (46%) actually increased it by 50% or more; meanwhile, 37% cut books (etc.) spending by 25% or more, including 27% that cut it in half or worse. For other spending, 39% increased it by 25% or more (including 33% with at least 50% growth above inflation), while 26% cut it by 25% or more.

A mere \$1,520,404 in additional spending would



**Figure 3.8**

Percentage change in median spending for Sector 4 libraries that are keeping up with inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

mean that every library spent at least as much on books (etc.) in 2012 as in 2002.

Given the small number of varied institutions in this group, it's hard to read much into figure 3.6—except that most libraries saw big increases in serials spending (growing even more rapidly since 2010), possibly because they generally didn't have bundles.

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$316,189	\$523,800	\$908,961		\$221,844,545
<b>Serials</b>	\$18,053	\$46,951	\$92,733		\$18,866,952
<b>Books</b>	\$25,778	\$47,600	\$91,636		\$23,065,989
<b>Serials %</b>	4%	8%	13%	9%	
<b>Books %</b>	6%	9%	13%	10%	
<b>Total Change</b>	8%	20%	36%	24%	\$43,396,639
<b>Serials Change</b>	-28%	15%	102%	26%	\$3,905,696
<b>Books Change</b>	-33%	-9%	49%	6%	\$1,263,062
<b>Remainder Change</b>	11%	26%	47%	27%	\$38,227,880

**Table 3.9**  
Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 4 libraries that are keeping up with inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$225,795	\$404,665	\$742,767		\$292,679,295
<b>Serials</b>	\$15,455	\$36,653	\$65,785		\$26,380,993
<b>Books</b>	\$16,870	\$34,314	\$60,798		\$25,518,100
<b>Serials %</b>	5%	9%	13%	9%	
<b>Books %</b>	5%	8%	12%	9%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-31%	-21%	-9%	-23%	-\$86,889,743
<b>Serials Change</b>	-49%	-19%	28%	-10%	-\$3,002,504
<b>Books Change</b>	-63%	-42%	-15%	-38%	-\$15,924,463
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-31%	-18%	-6%	-22%	-\$67,962,770

**Table 3.10**  
Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 4 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)



**Figure 3.9**  
Percentage change in median spending for Sector 4 libraries that are losing ground to inflation (ALS 2002–2012)

### Associate's Colleges

Here's the definition of Associate's Colleges (Carnegie classification 40) as of 2010:

These institutions offer associate's degrees and certificate programs but, with few exceptions, award no baccalaureate degrees.<sup>2</sup>

This is the largest Carnegie classification of

colleges (although smaller than Sector 2), and it's one in which books (and other) acquisitions spending still outweighs serials spending. The number of institutions here is larger than the sum of Sectors 4 to 6, which cover types of two-year colleges for various reasons. There's some overlap between this group of colleges and sectors 1–3. Libraries include Lone Star College System; City College of San Francisco; Brown Mackie College, Hopkinsville; and Southern Career College (ALS 2012).

Of the 1,112 libraries responding to the 2012 survey, 966 (87%) appear here, representing 93% of the 2012 spending. These 966 libraries served a total of 4,236,770 FTE students in 2012 (ALS 2012). Because some of these libraries have already been discussed in Sectors 1 to 3 and the rest will be discussed in Sectors 4 through 6, this discussion will be much less complete than some other discussions.

Figure 3.7 may be misleadingly straightforward: slightly down for everything else, massively down for books, more so since 2008. That median figure masks the extent to which these libraries diverge. Sector 4 may be more informative in that regard.

### Sector 4: Public Two-Year

Sector 4 includes public two-year colleges. Of the 875

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$78,335	\$141,112	\$242,889		\$5,227,719
<b>Serials</b>	\$1,362	\$6,454	\$35,410		\$776,083
<b>Books</b>	\$1,780	\$8,780	\$15,476		\$595,674
<b>Serials %</b>	2%	6%	15%	15%	
<b>Books %</b>	2%	5%	12%	11%	
<b>Total Change</b>	-5%	14%	37%	19%	\$852,467
<b>Serials Change</b>	-65%	-1%	59%	27%	\$164,397
<b>Books Change</b>	-51%	-20%	19%	5%	\$29,773
<b>Remainder Change</b>	-3%	14%	43%	21%	\$658,297

**Table 3.11**

Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 5, private nonprofit two-year institutions (ALS 2002–2012)

	Q1	Median	Q3	All	Dollars
<b>Total</b>	\$55,048	\$72,158	\$128,300		\$4,760,414
<b>Serials</b>	\$1,165	\$3,600	\$5,873		\$514,985
<b>Books</b>	\$2,750	\$9,425	\$17,876		\$524,203
<b>Serials %</b>	2%	4%	9%	11%	
<b>Books %</b>	3%	8%	23%	11%	
<b>Total Change</b>	8%	32%	92%	32%	\$1,165,061
<b>Serials Change</b>	-35%	63%	181%	119%	\$279,899
<b>Books Change</b>	-63%	16%	575%	-5%	-\$29,111
<b>Remainder Change</b>	1%	25%	60%	33%	\$914,273

**Table 3.12**

Key figures: changes since 2002 for Sector 6, private for-profit two-year institutions (ALS 2002–2012)

libraries responding in 2012, 785 (90%) responded throughout the decade, representing 93% of the spending. These libraries served 3,672,342 FTE students in 2012. Examples include Northern Virginia Community College, College of DuPage, Lamar Community College, and Sisseton Wahpeton College (ALS 2012).

It's been a rough decade for community colleges and their libraries, as table 3.8 makes clear. More than half (56%) cut non-serials acquisitions by 25% or more, including nearly a third (32%) where it dropped by half or more; for that matter, 39% cut serials spending by at least 25% (20% by half or more), while 24% increased it by at least half. It would require \$22,963,484 to restore books (etc.) spending at all of these libraries.

### Libraries Keeping Up with Inflation

Only 279 Sector 4 libraries (36%) managed to at least keep up with inflation. Those libraries served a total of 1,416,024 students in 2012. Libraries include Montgomery College, Austin Community College District, Ranger College, and Bay Mills Community College (ALS 2012).

By comparing table 3.9 to table 3.8, you can see that the libraries represented in table 3.9 generally have slightly larger budgets and spend significantly

more on acquisitions of all sorts. More than a third (35%) increased serials spending by half or more (including 25% at least doubling it), while 32% managed to increase books (etc.) spending by at least 25% (including 24% where it grew by half or more), while another 34% cut books (etc.) spending by at least 25%. More than half of these libraries (51%) increased remainder budgets by 25% or more. A relatively modest sum—\$4,732,921—would be needed for all these libraries to spend at least as much on books (etc.) in 2012 as in 2002.

Note in figure 3.8 that even within these libraries, books spending increased only slightly until 2008—and dropped considerably between 2010 and 2012.

### Libraries Losing Ground to Inflation

The remaining 506 libraries (64%) in Sector 4 served 2,256,318 FTE students in 2012. These libraries have generally smaller budgets. Libraries include Houston Community College, Nassau Community College, Rainy River Community College, and Trinidad State Junior College (ALS 2012).

Note in table 3.10 that one-quarter of the libraries spent less than \$15,500 on serials and \$16,900 on books in 2012. Of these libraries, 68% cut books (etc.) spending by at least 25%, including 41% that cut it by



half or more. For that matter, 45% cut serials spending at least 25%, and 25% cut it by half or more. More than a third (36%) cut remainder spending by at least 25%. It would require \$18,230,562 to bring all libraries back at least to 2002 levels (plus inflation) for books spending—but you’d need several million for serials spending as well.

Most of these libraries lost ground on serials and remainder spending at roughly the same rate—but lost much more ground on books (see figure 3.9).

## Sector 5: Private Nonprofit Two-Year

Sector 5 includes private nonprofit two-year colleges. Of 51 Sector 5 libraries responding in 2012, only 28 (55%) appear here, representing 62% of the total reported spending. The 28 libraries served 12,402 total FTE students in 2012. Notably, one library represents nearly half of all books spending. Libraries include Ellis School of Nursing, Harcum College, Bidwell Training Center, and Wentworth Military Academy and Junior College (ALS 2012).

Given such a small and diverse group, table 3.11 may not mean very much. The numbers are unusual: 43% of these libraries cut serials spending by at least 25%, including 32% where it dropped by half or more, while 36% increased serials spending by half or more. Not quite half of these libraries (46%) cut books spending by 25% or more, while 25% grew it by 25% or more; 32% grew remainder spending by 25% or more. It would cost only \$210,858 to bring all libraries up to at least 2002 levels for books spending—but that’s still more than a third of current books budgets. A median spending graph would be largely meaningless (and is omitted for that reason).

## Sector 6: Private For-Profit Two-Year

Sector 6, private for-profit two-year colleges, is not surprisingly even more volatile than Sector 5: of 178 libraries responding in 2012, only 39 (22%) appear here, representing 28% of total spending in this sector. The 23 libraries served 38,557 total FTE students in

2012. Libraries include Technical Career Institutes; San Joaquin Valley College, Visalia; North Central Institute; and Brown Mackie College, Hopkinsville (ALS 2012).

Table 3.12 may also not mean very much, given the small and diverse group of (mostly very small) libraries. Note that the group more than doubled serials spending and had a hefty increase in remainder funding—and, although books spending as a whole declined slightly, it was up for most institutions. Indeed, 46% increased books (etc.) spending by at least 25%, with 41% increasing it by half or more (while 36% cut books by 25% or more, including 31% cutting by half or more). Most libraries (54%) did increase serials spending by at least half, with 44% at least doubling it—but 31% cut it by 25% or more, with 21% cutting by half or more. Basically, very few of these libraries did not change sharply for the better or worse. It would take a mere \$343,726 for all libraries to spend at least as much on books (etc.) in 2012 as in 2002, allowing for inflation—but that’s considerably more than half of what they’re spending now.

This group is too small and diverse for a median spending graph to be useful.

## Summary

As a whole, libraries at public institutions lost ground to inflation, with books and other non-serials acquisitions taking the hit, along with remainder spending. Private nonprofit four-year and above institutions did much better, but even there books were cut slightly.

## Notes

1. Data is from US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, “Academic Library Data Files” for 1996–2012, [http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/aca\\_data.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/aca_data.asp); hereafter cited in text as ALS 1996–2012.
2. Tai Phan, Laura C. Hardesty, and Jamie Hug, Documentation for the Academic Libraries Survey (ALS) Public Use Data File: Fiscal Year 2012, NCES 2014-039 (Washington, DC: US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2014), A-6, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014039.pdf>.